

Montgomery County and Live Nation have reached agreement on a

lease that will create a dynamic new music, entertainment, and community use venue in downtown Silver Spring, a move that will dramatically bolster economic development and the music scene for that community and the County as a whole.

A new Fillmore music hall will preserve the historic facade of the old J.C. Penney store site on Colesville Road -- a site vacant for 18 years -- and build a modern, new music and community use venue behind it.

That means...

- World-class entertainment from a diverse group of artists from all over the world coming to Silver Spring to play popular, rock and roll, jazz, country, folk, and other styles.
- Synergy with American Film Institute, Discovery Communications, and others to make things happen in Silver Spring that are happening nowhere else in the country.
- Space available for community use when performances are not being held.
- More customers for Silver Spring restaurants and businesses.
- A projected \$1.6 million profit/benefit annually for the State and County
 -- over and above construction costs.
- Montgomery County will retain ownership of the donated land -- at an estimated value of \$3.5 million -- and of the facility.
- Live Nation will invest at least \$2 million in the facility, will pay all utilities, and will assume responsibility for all upkeep and maintenance costs -including structural maintenance -- on the County-owned building.
 No subsidies to Live Nation.
- Projected to open for business in 2010.

"Silver Spring Forward's central message all along is that the downtown revitalization is not done. This is a huge step in creating a sparkling entertainment district for the region."

Silver Spring Forward co-leader Alan Friedman.

For more information on the project, visit www.livemusicss.com or get more details on the agreement by visiting http://montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=4220